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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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EXAMINER

BERCH, MARK L

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1624

DATE MAILED: 05/31/2002

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/944,096

Applicant(s)

DANG ET AL.

Examiner

Mark L. Berch

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE ____ MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 April 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,34-39,41 and 42 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 38 and 41 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,34-37,39 and 42 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 8,9,10.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: .

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DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by JP 51105093, JP 53044591, or JP 52023094.

In JP 51105093, see the two compounds in the first column of page 706. In JP 53044591, see the second species in the second column of page 779. In JP 52023094, see the compound in first column of page 929. These species all anticipate under the reading given in point 3 below.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claim 36 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

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Claim 36 is indefinite. The scope of claim 36 is unknown. Which diseases are these? Determining who is in need thereof requires knowing which disease is to be treated. Does the person have to actually have a disease? That is, does this claim cover giving the drug to someone who is healthy?

If not, determining whether a given disease responds or does not respond to such inhibition will surely involve undue experimentation. Suppose that a given Inhibitor X when administered to a patient with Disease D does not obtain a response. Does one then conclude that Disease D does not fall within this claim? Keep in mind that:

A. It may be that the next patient will respond. It is quite common for pharmaceuticals to work only with some people, not all. Thus, how many need to be tested?

B. It may be that the wrong dosage or dosage regimen was employed. It is quite common for pharmaceuticals to work at one dosage, but not at another which is significantly higher or lower. Furthermore, the dosage regimen may be vital --- should the drug be given e.g. once a day, or four times in divided dosages? Thus, how many dosages and dosage regimens must be tried before one is certain that this pharmaceutical won't affect Disease D?

C. It may be that X simply isn't potent enough for Disease D, but that another inhibitor Y is potent enough, so that D really does fall within the claim. Thus, how many different inhibitors must be tried before one concludes that D doesn't fall within the claim?

D. Conversely, if D responds to Y but not to X, can one really conclude that D falls within the claim? It may be that the X result is giving the accurate answer, and that the success of Y arises from some other unknown property which Y is capable of. Thus, when mixed results are obtained, how many more pharmaceuticals need be tested?

E. Finally, suppose that X really will work, but only when combined with Z. There are for example, agents in the antiviral and anticancer technology which are not themselves effective, but the disease will respond when the agents are combined with something else.

F. In addition, literally speaking, any disorder can be treated with any drug, although the treatment might not be successful. Assuming that "successful treatment" is what is intended, what criterion is to be used? If one person in 10 responds to a given drug, does that mean that the disease is treatable? One in 100? 1,000? 10,000?

As a result, determining the true scope of the claim, that is, who is actually "in need thereof" will involve extensive and potentially open-ended research. Without it, one skilled in the art cannot determine the actual scope of the claim. Hence, the claim is indefinite.

Claims 1, 34-37, 39, 42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

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1. X combined with Y to form the group of "cyclic alkyl" is impossible. First, alkyl by its very nature is not cyclic. It is possible that applicants intend "cycloalkyl" but that is also impossible, because the Y is attached to the N, meaning that the N will be in the ring.
2. "Heterocyclic" is indefinite. What is the size of the ring? What is the number and nature of the heteroatoms? Can the ring be fused or spiroconnected to another ring, and if so, what kind of ring? Can the ring be bridged? Unsaturated? Cf. *In re Wiggins*, 179 USPQ 421, 423.
3. Further, the "group" renders the term open-ended, in that the claim language would cover any moiety with a heterocyclic ring present, even if not every atom were in that ring. It is not clear what else could be present. That is, heterocyclic group could cover a situation where X, Y and the C-N part of the purine formed -J-Heterocyclic, where J is some unspecified linker, because the -J-Heterocyclic is still a heterocyclic group, albeit not 100% heterocyclic. Similarly, the ring could have any substituent, as such a group would still be a heterocyclic group.

Election/Restrictions

Applicant's election with traverse of Group I in Paper No. 7 is acknowledged. The traversal is on the ground(s) that burden is not present. This is not found persuasive because burden is present. It is not true that a search for Group II will suffice for Group II, since Group II is not limited to the compounds of Group I. Group II would require a search of all such inhibitors, regardless of structure. Thus, searches would be needed in other areas such as benzimidazoles and non-heterocyclic compounds, where such compounds are fructose-1,6-biphosphatase inhibitors.

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The requirement is still deemed proper and is therefore made FINAL.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mark L. Berch whose telephone number is 703-308-4718. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 7:15 - 3:45.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mukund Shah can be reached on 308-4716. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-308-4556 for regular communications and 703-308-4556 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 708-308-1235.



Mark L. Berch
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1624

May 30, 2002